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QUALITY EDUCATION THROUGH LIBRARY SERVICES AND STRATEGIC
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Abstract

This paper explores the critical role of library services and strategic partnerships in improving quality education and fostering sustainable development in Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria. The study addressed three research questions and objectives. It adopted a qualitative research paradigm and interview guide to gather data. The research involved a total sample of 10 respondents observed within their ethnographic, natural environment. The discussions and findings revealed that quality education is significantly influenced by the quality of services provided by libraries in educational institutions. The study recommends the integration of modern library applications and utilization of current resources, such as updated books and databases, to align with current trends and needs. In conclusion, the research underscores the pivotal role of libraries in supporting educational institutions, both directly and indirectly, by providing essential services that enhance educational outcomes.

Keywords: *Quality Education, Library services, Strategic planning Partnership and Sustainable development goals.*

Background

Kashim Ibrahim library of Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria has played an incredible role in fostering education and human development over the years. As an academic library, it plays a number of roles in the educational ecosystem, including promoting reading and lifelong learning, providing access to relevant and up-to-date research information, developing information literacy skills, and providing training and support for students' learning needs through a variety of mechanisms. Libraries are often seen as learning institutions that encourage individual accomplishment (Mason, 2010). From the perspective of human development, libraries are crucial in the provision of information and knowledge, which serves as the foundation for innovation and progress in organizations, society, and individuals

(Nworie, Obiyan, Nworie, & Irunebo, 2018). Ndung'u & Otiike (2018) go on to say that, libraries help individuals' battle poverty, deprivation, and illiteracy by providing information. Furthermore, libraries are often acknowledged as vital contributors to a country's human resource development (Okoye, 2010).

Academic libraries are not only a key factor in restoring quality teaching and learning for sustainable development, but they are also a necessity for the course due to the aforementioned contributions. Despite the critical role that libraries play in ensuring effective teaching and learning activities in many Nigerian schools and institutions of higher learning, libraries have remained underappreciated reading centers, and their contributions are undervalued. This is due in part to a misunderstanding of libraries as key players in improving education for long term growth. Understanding the responsibilities of libraries in restoring high-quality teaching and learning for sustainable development could be beneficial.

Many academics have emphasized the importance of libraries in the educational field. According to Uzogwe (2018), no meaningful or genuine education can take place without the library. In addition, Kamau, Kiplang'at, and Odini (2016) state that libraries are important in encouraging students to think critically and conduct independent research. As a result, institutions of higher learning all around the world are currently investing significant resources on it. The institutions invest in learning resources (e-resources and print instructional materials) to aid them in achieving their goals by ensuring that users take advantage of them for teaching, learning, and research.

Therefore, academic, public, school, special, and other types of libraries can play a significant role in restoring quality teaching and learning in education for sustainable development. Academic libraries, for example, in the context of higher education, which is the topic of this paper, provide information to professors, students, and other members of the university community in order to help them. In Nigeria, academic libraries primarily provide information and services to its patrons using a traditional strategy and, to a lesser extent, a digital approach. The digital approach makes use of new technology capabilities to make library resources and services more accessible.

Problem Statement

University library is a role model for teaching, learning, research and community development that is user centered. Ideally, it is a source of knowledge that provides for quality and authentic knowledge that may help in societal elevation to great height. Therefore, university libraries are built upon provision of established user-friendly environment for users to use the library's information resources. However, with changing situations, the libraries are faced with serious financial predicament which retards their efficiency and effectiveness, especially in the provision of current information resources needed by users for quality education in the universities.

According to Suzanne, Robert & Judith (2016), patrons rarely or never checked out over 50% of the library's print books. Taking the psychology books in BF and RC classification scheme as examples, 47% and 48% of them, respectively, had never circulated during the last 15 years. The collection's age was one of the several factors contributing to the low use. Over 65% of the books in the print collection had been published between 1960 and 1990.

Research Objectives

- vii. To design methods for quality education by Kashim Ibrahim Library of Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria to enhance quality education through library services.
- viii. To identify the role of Kashim Ibrahim Library of Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria in strategic partnership.

- ix. To create sustainable development goals for Kashim Ibrahim Library, Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria.

Research Questions

- i. What methods could be employed by Kashim Ibrahim library of Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria to enhance quality education through library services?
- ii. What is the role of Kashim Ibrahim Library in strategic partnership?
- iii. What are the ways to create sustainable development goals for Kashim Ibrahim Library, Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria?

Methodology

This study adopted a qualitative research paradigm to provide an in-depth narrative understanding of the role of libraries in enhancing quality education, fostering strategic partnerships and achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Data were collected through semi-structured interviews with ten respondents, allowing for detailed exploration of their experiences, perspectives and insights. This approach ensures a nuanced analysis of the subject, focusing on the subjective meanings and interpretations shared by the participants.

Literature Review

In most poor nations, in Nigerian academic libraries application of modern technology tools in service delivery and access to information resources is limited. This is partly due to lack of computer skills and competency, declining budgets, insufficient ICT infrastructure, low information literacy, slow acceptance of open access resources, and changes in higher education (Bello & Ezeri, 2020; Ashiq, Rehman, & Mujtaba, 2020; Kamau, Kiplang'at & Odini, 2016; Jain & Akakandelwa, 2016; Jain, 2013).

As a result, introducing novel technologies made available by ICT into libraries in Nigeria, particularly academic libraries, will enhance access to information resources and also increase the quality of teaching and learning in our institutions. Academic libraries will have few options to solve teaching and learning difficulties in education for sustainable development if these technologies are not used. Therefore, the focus of this study is on the roles of academic libraries in supporting teaching and learning for sustainable development.

User service is another critical component of quality education. Academic libraries should strive to provide personalized and efficient services to their users. This involves employing knowledgeable and skilled library staff who can assist users in locating resources, utilizing research tools, and accessing information. Training programs for library staff should be implemented to enhance their expertise and keep them abreast of the latest trends and technologies in library services (Arendrup, Engberg, & Carlsson, 2017). Accessibility is an integral aspect of quality assurance in academic libraries. Ensuring that library services and resources are accessible to all users, including individuals with disabilities, is of utmost importance. This involves adopting inclusive practices, such as providing alternative formats for print materials, implementing assistive technologies, and offering accessible workstations and study areas. Libraries should also consider the physical accessibility of their premises, with features such as ramps, elevators, and accessible restrooms (Arendrup, Engberg, & Carlsson, 2017). Kashim Ibrahim library provide the following services to user:

Access to Information is fundamental in librarianship, the librarian is sometimes describe as information manager because he seeks for information for his patrons and also use the information for better purpose. References and Information Services the library either give direct or indirect reference services, it is said to be directly if the source of information was handed to the users it is also indirect if he users was shown the direction to where he could access/satisfy his information need, Lending services books are lending or borrowed to users

depending on the category of users, we have the academic staff, non-academic staff, students etc., for academic staff who are mostly lecturers they are allowed 15 textbooks for a month, while for non-academic staff who are senior staff they are allowed 4 books for two weeks, likewise junior staff 3 books for two weeks and students are also allowed 2 books for a week. Digital services It refers to the ICT division of the library where you may have the learning common meant for virtual conference, zoom meeting, online lectures, databases and institutional repository. research support refers to the unit that controls research and bibliographic services, programming and events, educational support and community outreach. (see ABU Flyer for Library accreditation 2024)

High quality staff can transform even the poorest library into an operation offering excellent service, since libraries are service organizations, and the quality in the context of a library is often treated as the quality of service; point out that service quality includes three areas: resources, organization and service delivered by subject librarian and other supporting staff, (Ogunlana and Amusa, 2008). Librarians, through their education and relationship to the organization, evaluation and retrieval of information, are the best-equipped academic members of the parent institution to ensure that aspect of the student's preparation. Universities need to acknowledge this more openly than has hitherto been the case, so they can extract the most out of their libraries toward the educational process.

Librarians are ideally positioned to serve as leaders who assist during this period of transformation, facilitating the introduction of new technologies for learning, teaching, and research. At the same time, the function of librarians is both changing and becoming more central; as he is expected to always provide answer to all question directly or indirectly, directly if he knows and indirectly by given direction to where that information could be found. Empirical studies has discussed many issues in regards to library application such as: Randhawa (2018) conducted a study on open source systems and libraries and found that integrated sources such as Koha can handle almost every function of the library. Many smaller libraries cannot afford to purchase, install, and maintain an ILS, and Koha is a perfect alternative. The findings of the study by Omeluzor (2020) on the evaluation of the use of the ILS in Nigerian libraries revealed that libraries have made remarkable progress in the adoption and use of the ILS for library services. The findings also showed that much has been achieved in the use of ILS in library services. so this is a proved that library application will help in improving quality education.

According to Sobalaje, Ajala and Salami (2018) most libraries use the Koha system for users' registration, cataloguing, charge and discharge library materials, to print barcodes, access the web-based Online Public Access Catalogue (OPAC) system, generate statistical data for research purposes, and use for library stock management. Uziogwe (2018) indicate that the library system can be used to search for books and library materials, staff can use Koha to do cataloguing and classification of books, charge and discharge books and library materials to users, register users or patrons, calculate date due for books and library materials, access its web-based OPAC system, and take library stock management. Monyane (2019) shares the same sentiments by stating that OPAC system is easy to use, saves time, offered considerable cost savings, and streamlined the workflow. The OPAC system offered staff functions such as ordering, cataloguing, and circulating their material and a public interface that was their library catalogue to access their print and electronic material at one point.

Shonhe and Jain (2019) states that librarians in Botswana public libraries believe that library systems allow timely access to current information, increases customer satisfaction, increases retrieval rate, improves service delivery, and increases productivity. They also believe that they have the capacity to improve their confidence in serving library patrons and that it facilitates innovation among them, enables effective circulation of library resources, and improves the acquisition process.

Olatunji, Farouq, and Idris (2018) posit that, library system helps to provide:

1. On-the-spot access to information;
2. Provision of on-the-spot access to information;
3. Proper organisation of information;
4. Accurate charging and discharging process;
5. Up-to-date statistical records;
6. Evaluation of information resources and resource sharing.

According to Abayomi (2017), library systems in Nigeria have influenced the roles of librarians. The application of Information And Communications Technologies (ICTs) in their daily routine has enhanced their performance. A library user who needs a book can search for the name of the author, title, or the subject of the book. Library systems have enhanced job performance, output, efficiency, service delivery, and library operations. Furthermore, they enable close monitoring of activities in the library. Omeluzor and Oyovwe-Tinuoye (2016) argued that the use of the library system in library operation is critical. The adoption and use of library systems positively affect the library and its users, and non-adoption of ILS by academic libraries will cause setback to delivery of quality library services to patrons. Discussion on library and information science is incomplete without discussing the laws of Ranganathan.

He proposed the laws for librarianship as a guide to understanding and fostering the profession's professional tasks, objectives and aims. The following are the laws:

- > Books are meant to be used;
- > Each reader has their own book;
- > Each book has a reader;
- > Help the reader save time;
- > A library is a living organism.

Ranganathan focused his rules on the term books because he recognized the importance of librarians in making these information materials available to readers. Librarians guarantee that users have access to library services. "Books are meant to be used" suggests that they are intended to be used, which is an essential idea for library resources' accessibility. Base on this rule, the need of currency of the print resources is paramount for the success and development of quality education as accreditation team always demand for recency of books. Furthermore, library patrons should have quick access to and storage and retrieval of information anytime they require it. This notion also validates Ranganathan's law of "Helping the reader save time," which states that when libraries establish an enabling environment, users spend less time retrieving items. This alleviates the difficulty that users face in obtaining these materials. The fifth and final law, "A library is a living organism," indicates the need and importance of creating an enabling environment for users, irrespective of ability or disability. Neither libraries nor librarians should be stagnant. Libraries should continue to grow to serve their various categories of users better.

Ranganathan's laws of librarianship are a great starting point for librarians to use for the benefit of the users they serve and their profession in general. So, libraries should try to create a dynamic environment and be at the top of their service to satisfy their users with special needs. The laws are an excellent benchmark to anchor this research because they stress how vital information materials are for teaching, research, and learning; how resources and their users have a unique relationship; and how important it is for librarians to make it easy for all categories of users to get access to library information materials quickly and save their time.

Quality Education

The United Nations Children's Fund (2000) provides a very comprehensive definition of quality education that includes healthy learners who are well-nourished, are ready to participate and learn, whose learning is supported by their families and communities; healthy, safe, and supportive environments; content that includes the foregoing elements and peace; inclusive child-centered processes that are facilitated by competent self-driven teachers; and actual outcomes that encompass life-supportive knowledge, skills and attitudes, and are linked to national goals for education (equity) and positive participation in society. Particularly critical (for sustainability) is UNICEF's statement that effective and appropriate stimulation in a child's early years influences the brain development and is necessary for emotional regulation, arousal, and behavioral management.

To achieve quality education in academic libraries, several key components come into play. First and foremost, comprehensive collection development policies are crucial. Academic libraries must ensure that their collections align with the curricular and research needs of their institution, not only that the currency of the information resources matters a lot. This involves regularly evaluating and updating the collection to maintain its relevance and currency. Additionally, establishing effective mechanisms for selecting and acquiring resources, such as books, journals, databases, and multimedia materials, contributes to maintaining a high-quality collection (Smith & Johnson, 2022). Library infrastructure also plays a significant role in quality education. Adequate physical space, conducive seating arrangements, well-organized shelving systems, and appropriate lighting all contribute to a positive library experience. Furthermore, ensuring the availability and functionality of technology infrastructure, including computers, internet access, and online databases, is essential for seamless information access and research (Smith & Johnson, 2022).

Sustainable Development Goals (SDG)

The concept of sustainability is based on classical economists. The idea of sustainable development was already present in the debate on narrowness and enlargement. Malthus (1986) and many others had predicted that the lack of natural resources would lead to a slowdown and eventual cessation of economic growth. Sustainable development refers to the development (economic, social & environmental) that is planned and implemented considering the protection of the environment and sustainability. The Brundtland Commission has published a report entitled "Our Common Future", which for the first time defined: sustainable development as the development that meets the needs of today's generation without limiting the ability to meet the needs of future generations (Brundtland Commission, 1987). Great emphasis on the role of Education was also given in the Agenda 2030 as it is one of the 17 goals set for achieving sustainable development and sustainability (Agenda 2030, 2015). Ambitions for education are essentially captured in Sustainable Development Goal 4 (SDG 4) of the 2030 Agenda which aims to "ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all" by 2030.

The SDG 4 has seven associated targets" at the global level that are universally applicable (and three targets which are so called means of implementation") (Agenda 2030, 2015):

1. Ensure universal, free, equitable, and quality primary and secondary education;
2. Ensure universal access to quality pre-primary education;
3. Ensure equal access to quality technical, vocational, and tertiary education;
4. Increase the number of youth and adults who have relevant skills, including technical and vocational skills, for employment, decent jobs and entrepreneurship;
5. Ensure equal access to all levels of education particularly of marginalised groups;
6. Achieve full literacy of youths and substantially increase literacy of adults;

7. Ensure that all learners acquire the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development, including, among others, through education for sustainable development an sustainable lifestyles, human rights, gender equality, promotion of a culture of peace and non violence, global citizenship and appreciation of cultural diversity and of culture's contribution to sustainable development.

Discussion on education is incomplete if the library and its services is not mention because it serves as wire house of all information and the back-born for educational strength.

Library Services

Libraries offer a wide range of services catering to their users' diverse needs. From providing access to a vast collection of books and resources to delivering innovative programs and technologies, libraries have become dynamic hubs of knowledge and community engagement. This brief overview will explore some of the key library services that contribute to the enrichment of individuals, support education and research, foster literacy and lifelong learning, and promote community development. Whether it is traditional services like lending materials and reference assistance or modern initiatives like digital resources and maker spaces, libraries play a vital role in connecting people with information and creating inclusive spaces for exploration, discovery, and personal growth. Various kinds of services offered by libraries are:

Circulation/Customer Operations:

Library circulation/customer operation is a fundamental aspect of library services, enabling patrons to borrow and return materials from the library's collection easily. This essential process ensures the smooth flow of resources and supports equitable access to knowledge. Some of the key components and benefits of library circulation operation are:

1. **Borrowing Materials:** The circulation operation begins with patrons selecting the items they wish to borrow. These can include books, magazines, DVDs, audio books, and other materials available for lending. Library staff are on hand to assist users in locating items and providing recommendations. To borrow an item, patrons typically present their library card, scanned or entered into the library's integrated library system (ILS). This step allows the library to keep track of loaned items and the associated due dates.

2. **Check-out and Due Dates:** Once the patron's library card is processed, the items are officially checked out to the individual. At this stage, due dates are assigned, specifying the materials' return period. Due dates can vary depending on the type of item, with popular materials often having shorter loan periods. It is important for patrons to be aware of due dates to avoid overdue fines and to ensure fair access to resources for other library users.

3. **Renewals and Reservations:** Many libraries offer renewal options, allowing patrons to extend the loan period for items they wish to keep longer. Renewals can usually be done online, by phone, or in person, provided there are no pending reservations on the item. Reservations allow patrons to request items that other users currently check out. When a reserved item becomes available, the library notifies the requesting patron, who can pick it up within a specified time frame.

4. **Returns and Check-in:** When patrons have finished with the borrowed materials, they return them to the library. Depending on the library's setup, designated return slots or staff-assisted return procedures may exist. Library staff then check the items back into the system, updating their status as available for others to borrow. It is important for patrons to return items on time to ensure fair access for other users and to avoid any overdue fines.

4. Integrated Library System (ILS): The circulation operation heavily relies on the library's integrated library system, a software platform that manages and tracks library materials, patrons' accounts, due dates, renewals, reservations, and other related functions. The ILS helps streamline the circulation process, ensuring accuracy, efficiency, and reliable record-keeping of all library transactions.

Reference Services

Library reference services are a cornerstone of library offerings, providing invaluable assistance and guidance to patrons searching for information. These services are designed to help users navigate the vast sea of resources and find the answers they seek. Whether it's a quick fact check, in-depth research, or guidance on utilizing library resources effectively, reference services are pivotal in empowering users and promoting information literacy. Some of the key features and benefits of library reference services are as follows:

- i. **Reference Desk:** At the heart of library reference services is the reference desk, where knowledgeable librarians can answer questions and provide assistance. Patrons can approach the desk with queries on various topics, ranging from research inquiries to finding specific resources. Librarians at the reference desk possess expertise in utilizing library catalogs, databases, and other research tools, enabling them to guide users effectively.
- ii. **Research Guidance:** Reference librarians are skilled in research methodologies and can help patrons formulate research questions, identify relevant sources, and navigate complex databases. They assist users in locating scholarly articles, books, journals, and other materials for their research projects. Librarians can also guide the evaluation of the credibility and reliability of information sources, helping users develop critical thinking skills.
- iii. **Information Literacy Instruction:** Reference services often include information literacy instruction, which equips users with the necessary skills to navigate the information landscape. Librarians conduct workshops and one-on-one sessions to teach users to search for information efficiently, evaluate sources for accuracy and relevance, and cite information properly. These sessions empower users to become savvy information seekers and consumers.
- iv. **Reference Collections:** Libraries maintain specialized reference collections comprising dictionaries, encyclopedias, atlases, and other reference materials. These collections are valuable resources for users seeking quick answers or background information. Reference librarians assist users in accessing and utilizing these resources effectively.
- v. **Virtual Reference Services:** Many libraries now offer virtual reference services besides in-person assistance. These services enable users to seek guidance remotely through email, online chat, or video conferencing. Virtual reference services provide convenient access to expert assistance, particularly for users who cannot visit the library physically.
- vi. **Bibliographic Assistance:** Reference librarians help users navigate citation styles, such as APA, MLA, or Chicago, and guide them on citing sources accurately. They assist in creating bibliographies, citing references, and managing citation software.

Library information services

They are crucial in connecting users with the information available within libraries. These services encompass a wide range of offerings designed to facilitate access to resources, promote information literacy, and support the diverse needs of library patrons. Some of the key features and benefits of library information services are:

- **Library Orientation:** Library information services often begin with library orientation sessions. These sessions familiarize users with the library's layout, policies, collections, and services. Through guided tours and presentations, library staff introduces users to various sections, such as the circulation desk, reference area, computer terminals, study spaces, and specialized collections. Library orientations help users navigate the library effectively and maximize its resources.
- **Assistance in Resource Discovery:** Libraries provide services to users in locating and accessing relevant resources. Librarians offer guidance on using library catalogs, online databases, digital collections, and other resources. They help users refine search queries, employ advanced search techniques, and retrieve specific information efficiently. This support enables users to make the most of the library's vast collection and find materials suited to their information needs.
- **Interlibrary Loan:** Library information services often include inter-library loan programs. These services allow users to access materials unavailable in their local library by requesting them from other libraries within a network. Inter-library loan services broaden the scope of resources available to users and enhance their research capabilities.
- **Digital and Online Services:** In today's digital age, library information services extend beyond physical collections. Libraries offer various digital and online services, including e-books, e-journals, digital archives, streaming media, and online databases. Librarians assist users in navigating these digital resources, ensuring they can access and utilize them effectively. They may guide on using research databases, e-book platforms, citation management tools, and other digital services.
- **Reader's Advisory:** Library information services often include reader's advisory, which involves recommending books, authors, genres, and other reading materials to users. Librarians engage with users to understand their interests, preferences, and reading goals, providing personalized recommendations tailored to their tastes. Reader's advisory services encourage a love for reading, help users discover new authors and genres, and promote lifelong learning.
- **Community Programs and Workshops:** Libraries offer community programs and workshops that foster learning, creativity, and community engagement. These services encompass various activities, including author talks, book clubs, workshops on digital literacy, educational seminars, children's storytelling sessions, and technology training. Library staff organize and facilitate these programs to cater to their community members' diverse interests and needs.

Current Awareness Service (CAS)

In today's rapidly evolving information landscape, it is essential to stay updated and well-informed to keep pace with new developments, emerging trends, and research advancements. This is where the Current Awareness Service (CAS) offered by libraries comes into play. CAS is a valuable service that helps users stay abreast of the latest information in their areas of interest. It enables individuals to receive regular updates, notifications, and alerts regarding newly published materials, research articles, conference proceedings, news articles, and other relevant content.

Libraries play a pivotal role in providing CAS to their users. They curate relevant sources, establish partnerships with publishers and content providers, and deploy advanced technology platforms to deliver seamless CAS experiences. Librarians, with their expertise in information management, help users navigate the vast sea of information and tailor CAS to their specific needs. They guide users in selecting appropriate sources, refining search strategies, and utilizing CAS tools effectively.

Selective Dissemination of Information (SDI).

Selective Dissemination of Information (SDI) services offered by libraries are designed to address the information needs of individual users in a personalized and targeted manner. SDI involves the creation of user profiles or profiles based on specific subject areas, keywords, or other criteria. These profiles serve as a blueprint for filtering and analyzing various information sources, such as databases, catalogs, research articles, and news articles. The SDI system then automatically retrieves and delivers relevant information to users based on their profiles. This service saves users valuable time and effort by eliminating the need for manual searches. It ensures they receive customized updates and alerts matching their specific interests and preferences. SDI helps users stay current with the latest publications, research findings, industry developments, or any other information that aligns with their profiles. By leveraging advanced technologies and the expertise of librarians and information specialists, libraries provide a valuable resource for information seekers to access tailored and relevant knowledge, supporting their research, decision-making processes, and academic pursuits.

Online Library Services

Online library services have revolutionized the way we access and interact with information. These services provide users with convenient and seamless access to vast resources, regardless of their physical location. Here are some key online library services that have transformed the way we engage with knowledge:

- **Digital Collections:** Online libraries offer digitized collections of books, journals, articles, manuscripts, photographs, and other materials. Users can access these resources from anywhere with an internet connection, eliminating the constraints of physical distance and limited availability.
- **E-Books and Audiobooks:** Online libraries provide access to a wide range of e-books and audiobooks, allowing users to read or listen to their favorite titles on various devices, such as e-readers, tablets, or smartphones. This digital format offers portability and flexibility, enabling users to carry their entire library anywhere.
- **Research Databases:** Online library services offer access to extensive research databases covering various disciplines, including scholarly articles, conference papers, market research reports, and more. These databases provide a wealth of information for researchers, students, and professionals, allowing them to access up-to-date and peer-reviewed content for their academic or professional pursuits.
- **Online Reference and Information Services:** Users can seek assistance from online librarians through virtual reference services. Librarians provide guidance, answer research questions, and help users navigate the vast online resources. This personalized support enhances the research experience and ensures users can maximize the available resources.
- **Interlibrary Loan and Document Delivery:** Online library services facilitate interlibrary loan and document delivery, enabling users to request materials unavailable in their local library. Through cooperative networks and digital delivery systems, users can access resources from libraries across the globe, expanding their research possibilities and ensuring access to specialized materials.
- **Virtual Learning Resources:** Online libraries offer a range of educational resources, including online courses, tutorials, and instructional materials. These resources support lifelong learning, professional development, and skill enhancement, catering to the diverse needs of users seeking self-paced and flexible learning opportunities.
- **Digital Archives and Special Collections:** Many online libraries house digital and special collections, preserving historical documents, rare books, photographs, and other

unique materials. These collections provide valuable insights into the past, allowing users to explore and study primary sources from the comfort of their own devices.

In recent years, there has been a tremendous shift toward offering information resources and services electronically. Most modern academic libraries, according to Ramkumar and Vinayagamoorthy (2020), are now digitalized and use technology to promote scientific studies and research activities at the institutions with which they are linked. Okiy (2010) emphasizes the need of adopting new technology in academic libraries, stating that teaching and research at tertiary institutions today require the use of high-quality ICT. Okiy goes on to say that academic library's reluctance to adopt new technology could lead to obsolescence and irrelevance. Online OPACs, Databases, and Multimedia, Online Journals, Digital Repositories, Electronic Books, Social Networks, Electronic Archives, and Online/Electronic services are some of the technologies utilized by academic libraries to assist teaching, learning, and research.

Methodology

This study adopted a qualitative research paradigm to provide an in-depth narrative understanding of the role of libraries in enhancing quality education, fostering strategic partnerships, and achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Data were collected through semi-structured interviews with ten respondents, allowing for detailed exploration of their experiences, perspectives, and insights. This approach ensures a nuanced analysis of the subject, focusing on the subjective meanings and interpretations shared by the participants.

Thematic Results

The findings from the key informant interviews were categorized into three thematic areas: Quality Education, Strategic Partnerships, and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Role of Libraries in Quality Education

Respondents emphasized that libraries play a pivotal role in enhancing quality education by providing diverse and innovative services. These include traditional offerings such as lending and reference services, as well as modern digital tools like Online Public Access Catalogues (OPAC), KOHA, Artificial Intelligence (AI) applications, and database management systems. Additionally, libraries support research through tools like Mendeley referencing and promote engagement through programming, such as seminars, conferences, and collaborative learning initiatives. The respondents stressed that the recency and relevance of library resources are critical to fostering an effective teaching and learning environment. Ethical and responsible library governance, coupled with the promotion of critical thinking and problem-solving skills, was also highlighted as essential for addressing challenges such as resource shortages and improving user satisfaction.

Strategic Partnerships

The importance of strategic partnerships in strengthening library services was a recurring theme. Respondents suggested that aligning goals and visions across libraries could harmonize services and foster greater collaboration. Effective communication was seen as key to forming consortia, which can pool resources and address shared challenges on a global scale. Additionally, leveraging complementary strengths through inter-library loans and resource-sharing agreements was identified as a practical way to enhance service delivery and overcome limitations.

Libraries and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

In the context of SDGs, respondents highlighted the need for libraries to evolve into dynamic hubs for innovation and community engagement. Suggestions included integrating library services into academic curricula, adopting advanced technologies like ICT and AI, and prioritizing user-centered approaches. Libraries were also urged to engage in community-focused initiatives such as embedded librarianship, which fosters deeper connections with users. Finally, robust policies and governance structures were emphasized as essential for aligning library activities with broader development goals and ensuring their sustainability.

Conclusion

This study highlights the significant role libraries play in enhancing quality education by leveraging strategic partnerships and fostering sustainable development. Libraries serve as pivotal institutions in the dissemination of knowledge, providing essential resources and services that support academic excellence. The formation of consortia and collaborative initiatives enables libraries to acquire and share vital information resources effectively, aligning their operations with the goals of sustainable development. In the case of Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, and academic libraries in general, these efforts are critical for addressing current and emerging educational challenges.

Recommendations

For maximum impact of library services, this paper makes the following recommendations:

- **Adoption of Modern Library Applications:** Academic libraries should embrace advanced technologies, including library management software and digital tools, to improve resource accessibility and user experience.
- **Utilization of Current Resources:** Libraries should focus on updating their collections with recent books and databases to align with contemporary academic and research needs.
- **Partnerships and Collaborations:** Libraries should actively pursue partnerships and collaborations that facilitate resource sharing and foster the formation of consortia, enhancing their collective capacity to address global challenges.
- **Curriculum Integration:** Academic disciplines should integrate library resources and services into their curricula to ensure that sustainable development objectives are met effectively.

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